

# THE SIGNAL OF DEATH

Synopsis of Chapters Already Published

Tom Moore, a Georgia boy making his way through Columbia school of mines in New York, becomes a habitué of the Chinese restaurants through curiosity and in one of them is made prisoner by Chinese cutthroats during a row in which he rescues a girl named Bates. Moore, the girl and the body of Bates are carried through an underground passage and Bates' body is thrown down a manhole. Moore, the girl and Bates are carried through an underground passage and Bates' body is thrown down a manhole. Moore, the girl and Bates are carried through an underground passage and Bates' body is thrown down a manhole.

## A Thrilling Story of The Chinatown Tongs!

By DOUGLAS PIERCE

He gave a slight shiver under his long robe. "I have them often enough, heaven knows," he said, "living down here in these dark, gloomy holes and constantly breathing this foul cellar air. It need only be one little more severe than usual."

"On the other hand," observed the man behind the mask with a significant gesture toward the manhole, "the sewer and the rats."

There was a long pause, and then the leader repeated his question. "Are you game to try it?"

Tom hesitated no longer. Heaven had sent him this chance, at last. He was desperate as it was he would at least try it.

"Come then," the man in the mask extended a hand toward him. "I have a private room which no one but myself is allowed to enter. There we make our interchanges and discuss the matter of your subordinates. How, then, will it be?"

"But how will you get out?" questioned Tom, seeking information which he thought might possibly be of use to him.

"I have arranged for all that. With this project in view I have had two of these costumes prepared, and while garbed in one you remain quiet in my private quarters. I will don the other and seek the upper air. Then watch the opportunity. I will discard the badge of my slavery and slip away. Presently you will appear, and I will be around in my place, and no one will doubt but that I have returned unseen."

"This was at least a chance, and yet the almost insuperable difficulties in the way!"

"Can it be managed?" he questioned hoarsely.

"I think so," the other man hesitated, "but I warn you it will be tough and you will both of us be in danger. But I entertain a suspicion, and the rats will have a dainty meal."

"Still," he went on, "it can be managed if you will only keep your head about you and obey my instructions to the letter."

On second thought, however, Tom had grown helpless.

"You are insane!" he protested. "It can never be managed in the wide world. Why would I voluntarily enter a moment? Do you dream that after an acquaintance of ten years any of them could possibly mistake me for you?"

"Ah!" the other assured him, "but they have never seen my face. I have been plotting and planning not only for a long time, but also for one with the requisite physical qualifications."

"Fortunately," as it happens, conditions were never more favorable than this moment. The group we have just pulled off has driven them to their burrows for the time being, and their surveillance upon me also for one with the requisite physical qualifications."

"The voice!" cried Tom. "The voice! How can we ever get around that? You are compelled to speak to them and leave orders come out of your mouth."

"A cold," rejoined the other, "a cold will fix that all right."

and no small share, either. I beguile all that is in here to you, yet I am in my means leaving empty-handed. Rest assured of that."

"Ah!" Tom's enjoyment in the beautiful things around him faded as though smitten with a sudden frost. The pictures and hangings and bric-a-brac which had so recently excited his admiration all at once seemed to his eyes armed and red with blood.

"Let us get down to business," he said sternly.

"With all my heart. As I mentioned to you before, we have no time to waste."

The leader still retaining the somber trappings which so effectively concealed his person, drew up another chair to him and framed both to guard against treachery and also to preclude the turning of State's evidence by some coward who might fall into the hands of the police.

"I have no time now to describe to you all the safeguards and precautions which must not be unnecessarily must make my word that it is so."

"Upon his initiation each new member assumes a mask and gown like mine, and wears his costume which remained throughout his connection with the society when taking any part in its activity."

"Speaking in dumb show, or with disguised voices, these men assemble at their meetings and join in carrying out the mandates of the organization. One is affiliated with them for a lifetime, and never know that the neighbor who sits at his right hand in the wine or helps him as an executioner to some helpless wretch is his own brother or father."

"The regulations of a highly necessary organization for murder, robbery, and blackmail, you and I will now use to bind their eyes."

"Ah, I begin to see your drift," cried Tom. "You mean that even to see me unmasked would be necessary to your organization?"

"Exactly. As I told you, no one here has ever seen my face. The spies who dog my footsteps whenever I go abroad have no idea of my real appearance."

"See these," He threw open a closet to display upon the shelves an array of wigs, false beards, false noses, spectacles, all the paraphernalia of make-up."

"In my visits to the upper world," he explained, "I invariably masquerade, and it is upon this fact that I now rely to make my get-away."

"But we are wasting valuable time here," and again he motioned toward the door. "Come to my private room."

"SO LONG, AND GOOD LUCK."

THROUGH A series of intricate passages and cunningly concealed doors Tom was at last ushered to his private room. A luxuriously fitted up room, where a wood fire burned brightly upon the open hearth, and the light from a chandelier illumined the room.

"In this little room I have set down briefly all the police regulations which they will only need to show yourself out of town. In conformity with them, and I advise you to put in all your leisure for some of our sakes at the learning of your lessons."

"Surely you're not going to leave me yet?" cried Tom, in confusion. "There are a thousand things I have to ask you."

"I am afraid I must. Time presses, you know. So long, and good luck to you."

"The door clicked behind him, and the new chief of the tong was left alone."

The Continuation of This Story Will Be Found in Tomorrow's Issue of the Times.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### A CHOICE OF EVILS.

MOORE shot a quick glance of searching scrutiny at the man. Was this another of his playful little jests?

But there was an earnest light in the dark eyes which showed that the man behind the mask was intensely in earnest.

"Hm!" Tom drew a long breath, and commenced to consider. It was a singular choice this which was offered him—death or the leadership of a band from whose horrid deeds his very soul recoiled.

The hero of melodrama would have spurned the proposition on the spot, but Tom was not a hero of melodrama. He was a very human specimen, and the fate which had been suggested to him was one which might well cause any of us to shrink.

Moreover, there was to his mind a great likelihood or, at least, a strong chance that he might escape.

The other man, however, had not endured his so-called slavery unless he had appealed to something innately wrong within him. Where there is a "yes" there is always a "no" and Tom, in his own mind, determined that his position of authority would not be of long duration.

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## NEBRASKA

### First State Convention of the Year Arouses Keenest Interest.

Republican and Democratic politicians here are alike watching with keen interest the Nebraska State convention of Nebraska, which will meet in Lincoln next Tuesday.

This will be the first State convention of the year, and in view of the widespread discussion over the tariff and the impression that a strong public sentiment exists in Nebraska in favor of downward revision, any expression of sentiment made by this convention will be scanned with the keenest attention.

It is expected, too, this convention will express itself on the income tax amendment to the Constitution of which Senator Brown is the author, and the expression will be looked on as an index to the feeling all over the middle West.

The convention will be a large one, with over 800 delegates.

Not much doubt is entertained that the Nebraska resolution to amend the Constitution so as to allow taxation of incomes. Senator Brown expects this will be done. It appears William J. Bryan is anxious to have his party take up and push the income tax question not alone in Nebraska, but elsewhere, and Senator Brown proposes to head him off in Nebraska by having the Republicans take the matter up.

"I have no doubt the party in Nebraska will take a positive and open stand on all live issues of the day, whether State or national," Senator Brown said today, when asked what he expected in the platform of his party.

"On Federal issues, I hope the convention will reaffirm the national platform adopted at Chicago last year. I hope it will commend President Taft for his stand in insisting that the pledge of the platform for downward revision must be redeemed at the next session of the Legislature."

It is pointed out here that on the trend of sentiment shown by the Nebraska convention Tuesday may depend a number of votes on the tariff bill, not alone of Nebraska members of Congress.

## SUNDAY HARVEST

### FOR PICTURE SHOWS

Buffalo Justice Lifts Ban From Nickelodeons on Sabbath.

Officials Powerless.

BUFFALO, July 25.—The moving picture shows in this city started up today without police interference. Through an order granted by Supreme Court Justice White and served last night setting aside the stay of Justice Hooker, the United Vaudeville Company has at last succeeded in tying the hands of the local police so that the Nickelodeons can temporarily reap the harvest which comes from their operation on Sunday.

Corporation Counsel Desbecker says the action of Justice White leaves the city officials powerless to prevent the opening of these cheap amusement resorts until the appeal can be taken to the higher courts. He declared, he still believes these Sunday shows to be illegal, and will carry the fight through to the highest court.

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WITHIN NEXT THREE to six months we can place 250 to 500 high-class men in automobile positions, paying from \$100 to \$200 per month. We can prepare you in eight weeks for this work. The cost is small. We can be paid weekly—200,000 new machines many new positions. We are ready to convert one of the many calls that are coming to us for chauffeurs. AUTOMOBILE COLLEGE OF WASHINGTON, INC., 1423 14th St. N. W. Phone N. 4022. j23-31

## HELP WANTED—Male and Female.

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AGENTS—\$33 per month introducing 10-piece combination pipe; experience unnecessary; no salary; D. THOMAS CO., Desk 73, Dayton, Ohio. j23-31

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WANTED—Salesman experienced in any line. Sell general trade in Maryland and Virginia; an excellent specialty proposition; vacancy after August 1; commissions with weekly advance for expenses. JEWELRY COMPANY, Cleveland, Ohio. j23-31

WANTED—Ambitious salesman, call on offices, stores and factory offices; superior salary; excellent specialty proposition; growing business. M. L. TAYLOR, Rochester, N. Y. j23-31

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## SITUATIONS WANTED—FEMALE.

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## SITUATIONS WANTED—MALE.

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F. ST. N. W., 208—A nice room for rent, no children; \$10; transient or permanent. j23-31

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N. Y. AVE., 1306—Large front room or 2; also back room; rent reasonable. j23-31

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187 ST. N. W., 785—2 furnished rooms with bath and use of kitchen; fine new house; close to Union Station and car line. j23-31

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9TH ST. N. W., 1422—7 room and bath brick. \$30.00. j23-31

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FOR RENT—UNFURNISHED ROOMS.

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